PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT.

Irrigation under the Sulekere Tank in the Channagiri Taluk.

READ —

Petition dated the 5th January 1927, addressed to the Dewan of Mysore, by the raiyats of Belalgere and other villages of Basavapatna Hobli in the Channagiri Taluk, praying for the restoration of the tank channels.

2. Letter No. A1. C. 2100—26-27, dated the 22nd July 1928, from the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga District, on the subject.

3. Note No. D. 955, dated the 8th February 1929, by the Public Works Secretary, submitting proposals for the proper regulation of water, etc.

ORDER NO. P. W. 499-506—3087-94, DATED 30TH AUGUST 1929.

The Sulekere tank in the Channagiri Taluk has a catchment area of 365 square miles. The tank is in good condition. It has however silted up considerably, and the supply during the past few years has been scanty. Though the capacity of the tank at its weir level is 10,054 units, the average supply during the past few years has been only 2,300 units. The extent irrigated by this tank directly is 2,747 acres, and that from the channels drawn from kattes across the waste weir halla is about 1,304 acres. As the yield from the catchment has been so low as 2,300 units, there have been bitter complaints from the raiyats about the insufficiency of supply and loss of crops.

2. During the tour of the Dewan in the Shimoga District in January 1927, a large number of people owning lands under this tank represented their grievances in connection with the water-supply from the tank for wet cultivation. It was decided that the problems, noted below, connected with the tank should be solved by both the Revenue and the Public Works Departments:—

(*a*) the improvement of the voddus and channels under the tank to ensure satisfactory supply of water,

(*b*) the releasing for cultivation of a reasonable proportion of the lands now reserved as date groves,

(*c*) arrangements for bringing under irrigation only such extent of lands as can be easily irrigated in any one year with the water stored in the tank; dividing the atchkat, if necessary, into several blocks or hanthas, each block so constituted being cultivated by rotation,

(*d*) levy of assessment on the lands under the tank according to the kind of crop raised, either wet or dry, and

(*e*) throwing out such portion of the tank bed as is not likely to be submerged at any time for cultivation.

The questions referred to above are of a complicated nature, and to arrive at a satisfactory solution, the officers noted in the margin have carefully considered the local conditions, and after hearing the grievances of the raiyats in person have submitted their recommendations.

1. Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga District.
2. Superintending Engineer, Shimoga Circle.
3. Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division.
4. Survey Assistant Superintendent.

3. *Item (a) Improvement of Voddus and Channels.*—There are six channels in all, *viz.*:—

Two Channels (Siddan and Basavan Channels) drawn directly from the tank with an atchkat of 2,747 acres.

Two Channels (Tyavange and Belalgere) drawn from Kulmenahalli Voddu with an atchkat of (537 plus 313)= 850 acres.

Two Channels (Katalgere and Karignur) with an atchkat of (344 plus 210)= 554 acres.

It is reported that the two main channels (Siddan and Basavan) are being repaired annually by the Public Works Department, and are maintained in good working order. The raiyats wanted locking arrangements for the sluices and these have been since fitted up. The Kulamenahalli as also the Tyavange have been since repaired. The remaining two channels do not require to be repaired since they are recommended to be abandoned, the atchkat being converted into dry.

Item (b)—Release of date groves for cultivation.—It is reported that an area of 196½ acres has already been released by the Excise Department and transferred to the Revenue Department for disposal. As a large area may be brought under wet cultivation under the Siddan and Basavan Channels, the Deputy Commissioner is requested to take early steps to get the remaining extent also released and decide as to the extent that could be brought under cultivation.

Item (c)—Method of Irrigation.—The Deputy Commissioner has brought to notice that the raiyats are not agreeable to the atchkat being devided into blocks and water distributed by rotation; and there are besides practical difficulties in introducing the system. In order to avoid complaints, it has become necessary to reduce the atchkat by converting some of the existing wet lands into dry. The Deputy Commissioner has recommended with the concurrence of the raiyats that the area noted in the margin may be converted into dry. The recommendation is approved.

Village.	Area. A.	G.
Doddaghatta ...	304	20
Lakshmisagara ...	73	28
Kabbala, Kanvihilechi, Kengapur	162	24
Area now commanded by Katalgere and Karignur Channels ...	554	0

Item (d)—Levy of assessment on lands on the kinds of crops raised.—Government observe that this question does not arise now in-as-much as all the lands that could not be cultivated wet have been ordered to be converted into dry. The wet lands may be levied with wet assessment as usual, and the lands converted into dry levied with maximum dry assessment. Government further direct that if in any year there is abundant supply of water in the tank, such of the lands converted into dry might be given water for wet cultivation as a temporary measure by levying extra water rate for that particular year only.

Item (e).—Throwing out portion of the tank bed for cultivation.—Government are not in favour of encouraging cultivation in the tank bed as it will allow the tank to be silted up soon.

4. As a result of the above orders, the cultivation under the four channels is now restricted to 3,056 acres only as shown under:—

	Existing area.	Area as now limited.
1 Siddan Channel 2. Basavan Do ..	2,747	2,206
3. Tyavange ..	537	537 (no difference)
4. Belalgere ..	313	313

5. The Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, is requested to give early effect to the above orders.

J. BHORE,
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.